Closure of CSIR Laboratories

*69. DR. R. K. PODDAR:
SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Government panel has suggested the closure of a few CSIR laboratories in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what alternatives have been suggested by the said panel;

(c) whether Government propose to implement the said suggestion; if so, by when;

(d) what are the names of members of the said panel, alongwith their individual area of specialisation, if any; and

(e) what is the present condition of those Laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The CSIR Review Committee has recommended for the closure of only one laboratory viz. Regional Research Laboratory, Bhopal.

(b) The Review Committee has stated as under:—

"The Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Bhopal has yet to evolve to a minimum threshold in terms of scientific manpower, infrastructure and, above all, direction or specialisation. The CSIR should explore the possibility of the State Government taking over this laboratory and running it as a laboratory for Forest and Mineral products. The staff would have the option of being absorbed by the State or returning to the CSIR net work. If the State Government is unwilling to take it over, then it should be closed down".

(c) The entire Report of the Review Committee is under consideration of Government.

(d) The names of the Chairman and Members of Review Committee alongwith broad areas of specialisation is as below:—

Shri Abid Hussain, Chairman—Member, Planning Commission.

Dr. K. K. G. Menon—Biologist.

Prof. M. M. Sharma—Chemical Technologist.

Shri R. P. Shenoy—Electronics.

Shri T. K. Roy—Chemical Engineering and Metallurgical Engineering.

Shri T. V. Mansukhani—Mechanical Engineering.

Shri Deepak Nayyar—Economist.

(e) The Regional Research Laboratory, Bhopal was set up in 1981 at the request of the Madhya Pradesh Government with the specific objective of helping to exploit the resources of the region. It also aimed at achieving dispersal of S & T institutions in different areas of the country. Recently a new Director has taken over in the laboratory.

Upgradation of cities for grant of C.O.A.

*70. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently upgraded certain cities of the country on the